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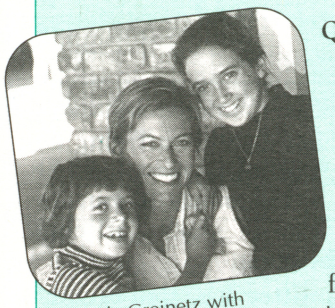
LAFAYETTE VISTAS

STREET BEAT

We caught up with some Lafayette residents on August 27th in front of Noah's Bagels and asked them their opinions about Lafayette.



Linda Greinetz with her daughters Genevieve & Hanna

Q: What do you like *best* about Lafayette?

A: We love the bike trail and the access for kids to ride to the schools from Burton Valley.

Q: What do you think *needs improvement* in Lafayette?

A: We would like to see more downtown revitalization. We like the small shops where you can stop and take your kids to lunch.

▼ ▼ ▼

Q: What do you like *best* about Lafayette?

A: The weather. It's just perfect. Summer is six months long in Lafayette. It's sunny every day.

Ward J. Austin

Q: What do you think *needs improvement* in Lafayette?

A: I'd like to see less of a lean toward corporate retailers. I'd like to see more promotion of small businesses in town.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW LIBRARY, CITY HALL

In August, following months of study, the City Offices Task Force recommended to the City Council that Lafayette proceed with building a new Library and City Hall in downtown Lafayette.

The city's current Library was found to be outdated, poorly located, and deficient for the community's needs.

The Task Force also deemed the City's offices to be less than suitable, noting the need for "such basics as interrogation rooms for our police," says Task Force Chairman Mike Gilson. "We're not recommending a palace, just improvements in some basic city facilities."

Community members are concerned about the expense of such facilities. "If the marginal economics are there, I'm willing to support selective replacement of facilities. Merging the finances of the library, a parking garage, city offices and council chambers tends to obfuscate things," says Task Force member, Walt Lautenberger.

The Task Force recommended that the new city complex be 18–24,000 square feet and include city offices, multi-purpose meeting rooms, police department (unless police & fire are combined), and a parking structure. The Task Force also recommends that the present 6,720 square foot library be replaced by a new 14,000 square foot library which would be built nearby or as part of the new city office complex.

Location was also studied. Out of 20 initial locations, there were 5 finalists, all located downtown. Based on the four criteria of site suitability, synergy with the community, accessibility, and planning, the Bart Block was rated as the top site.

According to the report, the city offices would cost approximately $4.2 million. The library would run an additional $4 million. With a parking structure, the entire complex would cost $9.6 million with financing spread over 30 years.

The project would be financed by a combination of general funds, redevelopment incremental funds and additional parking funds.

(cont. on page 2)

POLICE & FIRE MERGER UPDATE

The proposal to merge Lafayette's police & fire services into one public safety department is now in the hands of the City Council. The Public Safety Implementation Committee, appointed over 1½ years ago to study the idea, presented its final reports to the Council in August. Along with the reports, the committee presented a time frame of 18 months to transform the two services into one.

The three reports addressed the following areas: 1) How the combined department would look and work, including an ongoing mechanism to measure the level of service and response time; 2) How the merged public safety department would be funded; and 3) How the police & fire services would get from here to there, including recruiting, equipment requirements and the considerable task of cross training officers in one or the other discipline.

Under the plan, the consolidation of police & fire would cost less than the current split services. "The savings would be achieved because we could get more services for less money by using people more efficiently," says Brandt Andersson, the head of the committee that studied the topic.

By cross training and moving fire fighters out of the station houses and into patrol seats, the City could increase the number of active patrollers from two to eight. More patrollers, say committee members, would result in faster responses to fire, police and medical emergencies.

(cont. on page 2)

New Faces On City Crew

Vistas welcomes four new members to the Lafayette city staff. Their positions are not newly created, but became vacant when former staffers left.

Mike Ilg, Police Chief

Duties: Chief Ilg manages the overall operation of the police department, including patrol, investigations, parking enforcement, and the youth diversion program.

Mike's Objectives: Being fresh to the seat, Chief Ilg wants to evaluate what has happened in the past and make sure that his department is accomplishing the goals set forth prior to his arrival.

For Police Assistance: For emergencies, you should always call 911 first! For non-emergencies, you can reach Chief Ilg at 283-3680 or 284-5010.

Juliet Shanks, School Bus Coordinator

Duties: Juliet coordinates and administers the Lamorinda School Bus Program. Launched in 1994, the program was designed to reduce traffic congestion throughout the three communities. At press time, Juliet was busy with Fall enrollment for the 1996/97 school year. Once she's past the Fall rush, Juliet will work with parents and community members to improve the program throughout the school year. She oversees the contract between Lamorinda and the bus company, Durham Transportation, conducts research, and issues reports and recommendations regarding how to improve the program.

Juliet's Goal For The Year: To reduce traffic congestion in Lamorinda and to provide a quality service to students and parents.

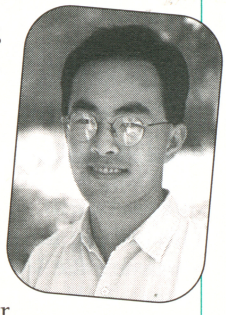
For School Bus Information: Call Juliet for school bus enrollment and general information, at 284-1968. To request a change in bus stops or routes, call Durham Transportation directly at 686-3391.

Mary O'Neill, Senior Center Aide

Duties: Mary coordinates the activities at the Senior Center. These activities are designed especially for senior citizens, and include classes in exercise, Taichi, current events, drawing, painting, tea dances and movies. Mary also coordinates the free consultation services provided by the senior center on such issues as legal matters and health insurance, as well as providing general information and referral services to senior citizens.

Mary's Objectives: To create a warm and inviting atmosphere at the Senior Center. To provide genuine social opportunities to senior citizens.

For Senior Services: Call Mary at 284-5050 Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Tony Coe, Public Works Services Manager

Duties: Tony oversees the entire maintenance function of the city, including pavement, drainage, landscape, irrigation, weed abatement, tree trimming, pruning and hedging, emergency response during winter storms and sign visibility. Tony is ably served by his staff of three maintenance workers: Jim Bloom, Rick Grimes and Gary Pernich. With the storm drain maintenance season fast approaching, you will soon be seeing them in your neighborhood.

Tony's Goal: To maximize the city's resources, both personnel resources and monetary resources, so we can do more, better, faster.

For City Maintenance: Call Tony at 284-1968.

Task Force *(Cont. from front page)*

Any special grant funding from the state or Federal government could also defray project costs. The new library and most of the parking could be constructed entirely from Redevelopment Authority funds, according to the report.

According to Gilson, when comparing equal size facilities, opting to own vs. rent the project would break even in 8 years and generate approximately $1 million in savings over the life of the 30 year loan. Admittedly, building city offices will require the city to spend more money now than it spends on rent, but city offices and a library are long-term investments.

For a copy of the report, please call the City of Lafayette at 284-1968.

Police & Fire Merger

(Cont. from front page)

Instead of the standard full complement of fire fighters arriving on the fire engine, the engine would be transported by one officer to join the patrolling public safety officers already on the scene.

The committee has also recommended that the city employ a special wildfire crew during the period between June and October. This innovative proposal would have five specially trained officers concentrate on fire suppression, prevention, and weed abatement during the hot summer months. Currently no such team is in place; the team would be funded by the savings generated by the public safety consolidation.

For a set of complete reports on the proposed consolidation of fire and police services, please call the City of Lafayette at 284-1968.

HELP WANTED

If you're interested in the following opportunities, please call the City at 284-1968 for more information.

- DARE Officer for Lafayette Schools
- Volunteer Police Reserve Officer
- Native Plant Tenders for Community Center
- Commission Openings

Road & Drain Progress Report

On March 7, 1995, Lafayette voters approved a parcel tax to fund repairs to the following roads and drains. This report charts the City's progress on the work.

#	Project Name (not in priority order)
A	Acalanes Rd: Hidden Valley Rd to City limits
B	Acalanes Rd: El Nido Ranch Rd to Hidden Valley Rd; Marianne Dr, Valente Ct
C	Avalon Ave / Solana Dr / Acampo Dr / Hamlin Rd
D	Condit Rd
E	Deer Hill Rd: First St to Pleasant Hill Rd
F	Dewing Ave / Boyer Circle
G	Diablo Circle / Middle Rd
H	Dolores Dr: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Highway 24
I	Doreen Way
J	Dyer Dr Storm Drain
K	El Curtola Blvd
L	El Nido Ranch Rd: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Hwy 24 Ramps
M	First St: School St to Golden Gate Way, Moraga Blvd, Moraga Rd to Victoria Ave
N	Glen Rd / No. Thompson Rd / Oak Hill Rd / Orchard Rd
O	Glenside Dr: St. Mary's Rd to Reliez Station Rd
P	Goyak Dr
Q	Hampton Rd / Woodland Way / Walnut Dr
R	Happy Valley Rd: Upper Happy Valley Rd to Deer Hill Rd
S	Hidden Valley Rd
T	Los Arabis Dr
U	Los Palos Dr
V	Martino Rd
W	Moraga Blvd: Victoria Ave to Carol Lane
X	Mosswood Dr / Webb Lane
Y	Mt. View Dr: Mt. Diablo Blvd to Brook St
Z	No. Peardale Dr / Camino Vallecito / So. Peardale Dr
AA	Old Tunnel Rd
BB	Ortega St / Perales St / Palomares St
CC	Quandt Rd
DD	Reliez Valley Rd: Pleasant Hill Rd to Silver Dell Rd
EE	Reliez Valley Road: Silver Dell Rd to City limits
FF	Rohrer Dr
GG	Sibert Ct
HH	Sierra Vista / Robles Ct / Serrano Ct
II	Springhill Rd
JJ	St. Mary's Rd at Driftwood
KK	St. Mary's Rd: Glenside Dr to Rohrer Dr
LL	St. Mary's Rd: Rohrer Dr to City Limits
MM	Sweet Dr
NN	Upper Happy Valley Rd
OO	Windsor Dr

Partially Completed or Under Design Completed

Around Town

October **HELP US CLEAN OUT THOSE CATCH BASINS!** – Don't forget to clean out your house's rain gutters and downspouts before the rainy season. And, while you're in the drain-cleaning frame of mind, please remove leaves and debris from your gutter and nearest storm drain inlet on the street. A little prevention now can prevent a lot of flooding later! Questions? Call the Public Works Dept: 284-1968.

Oct/Nov/Dec **FALL FOOD DRIVE** – Help the less fortunate by dropping off non-perishable food at the City offices, Police Dept, or Community Center. Donations will be distributed by the Contra Costa Food Bank. Call Wendy Peterson at 284-1968 for more information.

Oct. 19 **HOME COMPOSTING FOR BUSY PEOPLE!** – Learn how to recycle yard waste by attending a FREE workshop. 9am. For reservations call: 906-1806.

Oct. 26–27 **LAFAYETTE ART AND WINE FESTIVAL** – Stroll downtown, sip a fine cabernet, enjoy the work of local artists, listen to the sounds of live music. Call the Chamber for more information, 284-7404.

Oct. 27 **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN** – Join 1,000 runners and walkers on one of No. California's most beautiful courses. Celebrate Halloween and run in costume! For registration information, call the Chamber, 284-7404.

Oct. 31 **HALLOWEEN FUN SHOW** – Maze scare, pumpkin drawing, treats for all, and a special show. Come in costume! Kindergartners and under, 1:30 pm, $3. Lafayette Community Center.

Nov. 22 **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST** – Join friends and neighbors for an interfaith breakfast celebrating our good fortunes. 7:30 am, St Anselm's Church. For information, call the Chamber, 284-7404.

Dec. 6 **HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING** – The magnificent oak tree at Lafayette Circle and Mt. Diablo Blvd. will be officially lit for the holidays at 4 pm. Local merchants will stay open late. Reception afterward at the Chamber of Commerce.

Dec. 7 **TEDDY BEAR BRUNCH** – Bring the kids to the Lafayette Park Hotel for brunch and a children's fashion show. Kids will receive a teddy bear and all proceeds benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Call 284-7404 for tickets or information.

Dec. 7–8 **LAFAYETTE WINTER FESTIVAL & BOUTIQUE** – Great food, hot mulled cider, arts & crafts, choral groups, and a visit from Santa. FREE. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Lafayette Community Center.

Dec. 14 **HOLIDAY SHOW** – A holiday show celebrating the joy of the holiday season. Fun for the whole family! $3/adults, $2/children. 1:00 pm, Lafayette Community Center.

Dec. 30–Jan 3 **HOLIDAY CAMP FOR KIDS** – Holiday arts, crafts, games, songs and special events. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm daily. Kindergarten–4th grade. $79/wk. Call the Lafayette Community Center for information: 284-2232.

City Manager Moves to Manteca

Departing Manager Bob Adams

In August, City Manager Bob Adams left his post here to accept the same position in Manteca, a community twice the size of Lafayette. Adams has managed the city of Lafayette for 8½ years and says "it's time to move on and broaden my professional experience."

The City Council appointed Steven Falk, Lafayette's Assistant City Manager for the last five years, to fill Adams' spot.

During his tenure, Adams was instrumental in getting the $35 million redevelopment project approved. The comprehensive project will span 30 years and ultimately result in a wide variety of infrastructure improvements throughout Lafayette's downtown area. Other major accomplishments that transpired under Adams' watch include the storm drain bond measure and the building of Lafayette's ball fields.

"This is something the community has wanted for years and years," says Adams of the ball fields. "It was very much a cooperative effort. I'm glad it was accomplished during my tenure."

Adams was also responsible for launching the Lafayette Vistas newsletter.

Manteca is getting an excellent city manager and we are losing one," says Mayor Judy Garvens. "He is leaving us with a very well-run city."

New City Manager, Steven Falk

Economic Development Commission Celebrates 1st Anniversary

Lafayette's Economic Development Commission was formed in 1995 to help revitalize Lafayette's historic downtown. At the one year mark, the Commission is gratified to see new businesses moving to Lafayette, and finds itself becoming a key communication link between business and community. All the while, the Commission keeps its eyes focused on the ultimate goal: to create an exciting downtown that offers the shopping and entertainment residents desire, while still retaining Lafayette's small-town atmosphere.

The Commission's first-year accomplishments include producing the city's first promotional brochure, and conducting a workshop held in April to bring together residents, local government and the business community to discuss the economic development needs of the city. The Commission has also established ongoing channels of communication between the three groups, and administers periodic surveys to keep abreast of the changing views on the economic development of downtown Lafayette.

Commission members also attend meetings of other business groups, such as the Contra Costa Council, Contra Costa Economic Partnership, Small Business Development Center and the Contra Costa Regional Permit Center. Commercial realtors and lending institutions have also been formally introduced to the Commission at a luncheon promoting the virtues of doing business in Lafayette.

Please call Don Jenkins at 284-7900 with any questions about the Commission.

City Directory

Leave your Council Members a message on the City's voice mail system!
Call 299-3232

Officers

		EXT.
Judy Garvens	**Mayor**	**272**
Donald L. Tatzin	**Vice Mayor**	**274**
Anne Grodin	**Council Member**	**273**
Gayle B. Uilkema	**Council Member**	**270**
Erling Horn	**Council Member**	**271**

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

The City Council meets at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

Staff Contacts

Steven B. Falk	**City Manager**
Niroop K. Srivatsa	**Comm. Dev. Director**
Mark Lander	**City Engineer**
Mike Henn	**Planning Serv. Mgr.**
Jennifer Russell	**Parks and Recreation Director**
Tony Coe	**Public Works Serv. Mgr.**
Sue Jusaitis	**City Clerk**
Mike Ilg	**Police Services Mgr.**

City Offices and Police

Street Address:	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210**
Mailing Address:	**P.O. Box 1968 Lafayette, CA 94549-1968**

City Telephone Numbers

Administration:	**284-1968**
Engineering:	**284-1951**
Planning:	**284-1976**
Parks and Rec:	**284-2232**
Public Works:	**284-1968**
Senior Services:	**284-5050**
Police Business:	**284-5010**
Police Emergency:	**911**
Voice Mail System:	**299-3232**

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

is published for the residents of Lafayette and reports on issues, people and events that affect our city. As a member of this community, you are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments. We request all correspondence be sent to:

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